

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1-13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A fuel injector, comprising:

a valve needle;

a fixed valve seat surface;

a valve-closure member that is actuated by the valve needle, wherein the valve-closure member cooperates with the fixed valve seat surface to form a sealing seat;

a connecting piece; and

a valve housing that at least partially encloses the connecting piece, the valve housing being joined to the connecting piece by a crimped connection,

wherein:

the connecting piece includes at least one notch, and

the valve housing, under an axial stress, is crimped into the at least one notch[[]],

wherein the crimped connection is formed by the valve housing, which before it is crimped, has a material bulge protruding radially outwards which, to generate an axial stress between the valve housing and an inserted connecting piece, has an average distance d with respect to a notch at a circumference of the connecting piece, the crimped connection being formed from a shift of the material in a height of the material bulge of the valve housing inwards in the radial direction and all the way into the notch.

15. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector according to claim 14, wherein:

the fuel injector corresponds to an injector for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine.

16. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector according to claim 14, wherein:

the at least one notch is configured as a circumferential groove on an external periphery of the connecting piece.

17. (Currently Amended) A fuel injector, comprising:

    a valve needle;  
    a fixed valve seat surface;  
    a valve-closure member that is actuated by the valve needle;  
    a valve-closure member cooperating with the fixed valve seat surface to form a sealing seat;  
    a connecting piece;  
    a valve housing that at least partially encloses the connecting piece, the valve housing being joined to the connecting piece by a crimping crimped connection; and  
    a spring element provided between the valve housing and the connecting piece and for acting upon the crimping crimped connection through an axial stressing force;  
    wherein the crimp connection is formed by the valve housing, which before it is crimped, has a material bulge protruding radially outwards which, to generate the axial stressing force between the valve housing and an inserted connecting piece, has an average distance d with respect to a notch at a circumference of the connecting piece, the crimped connection being formed from a shift of the material in a height of the material bulge of the valve housing inwards in the radial direction and all the way into the notch.

18. (Withdrawn) The fuel injector according to claim 17, wherein:

    the fuel injector corresponds to an injector for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine.

19. (Withdrawn) The fuel injector according to claim 17, further comprising:

    a crimped valve housing segment; and  
    a support ring provided between the spring element and the crimped valve housing segment.

20. (Withdrawn) The fuel injector according to claim 17, wherein:

    the spring element includes a spring ring.

21. (Withdrawn) The fuel injector according to claim 14, wherein:

    the crimped connection includes a plurality of crimping segments arranged with respect to a valve axis so as to be offset from each other circumferentially, and

the valve housing is joined with respect to the crimping segments to the connecting piece in each case by a partial crimped connection, leaving out uncrimped segments.

22. (Withdrawn) The fuel injector according to claim 17, wherein:

the crimping connection includes a plurality of crimping segments arranged with respect to a valve axis so as to be offset from each other circumferentially, and

the valve housing is joined with respect to the crimping segments to the connecting piece in each case by a partial crimped connection, leaving out uncrimped segments.

23. (Withdrawn) The fuel injector according to claim 14, further comprising:

a lift-adjustment disk arranged between the valve housing and the connecting piece.

24. (Withdrawn) The fuel injector according to claim 17, further comprising:

a lift-adjustment disk arranged between the valve housing and the connecting piece.

25. (Withdrawn) The fuel injector according to claim 14, further comprising:

a sealing ring arranged between the valve housing and the connecting piece.

26. (Withdrawn) The fuel injector according to claim 17, further comprising:

a sealing ring arranged between the valve housing and the connecting piece.

27. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a fuel injector that includes a valve-closure member actuated by a valve needle and cooperating with a fixed valve seat surface to form a sealing seat, that includes a connecting piece and a valve housing that at least partially encloses the connecting piece, and in which the connecting piece includes at least one notch into which the valve housing is crimped, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting the connecting piece into the valve housing up to a predetermined limit stop; and

crimping a material bulge into the at least one notch, wherein:

the material bulge is arranged at an average distance with respect to the at least one notch in order to generate an axial tension between the valve housing and the connecting piece.